

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 08835 071017Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 /062 W

-----071027Z 095302 /17

P 070925Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 861

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 8835

EMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO CASE

1. JUNE 7 MANILA PRESS REPORTS MILITARY COMMISSION NO. 2 HAS BEEN ASSURED SENATOR AQUINO WILL APPEAR IN PERSON AT HEARING TOMORROW (JUNE 8). DURING HEARING JUNE 6, EXASPERATED COMMISSION PRESIDENT GENERAL SYJUCO DIRECTED THAT AQUINO, ASC WELL AS LT. VICTOR CORPUZ AND COMMANDER DANTE (BERNABE BUSCAYNO) APPEAR IN PERSON TO LET HIM KNOW WHETHER THEY WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN DEFENSE PHASE OF TRIAL.

2. DURING LUNCH JUNE 7, SENATOR SALONGA, WHO HAD JUST COME FROM VISITING AQUINO, GAVE EMOBFF RUNDOWN ON HIS CLIENT'S CURRENT PLANS. FORMER SENATOR ASKED TO TALK TO SECRETARY ENRILE THIS MORNING. PERMISSION WAS GRANTED AND HE SPOKE WITH ENRILE ON THE PHONE. AQUINO ASKED TO SEE MARCOS IMMEDIATELY TO DISCUSS HIS CASE, SAYING HE WISHED TO HAVE IT TRANSFERRED TO CIVIL COURT. AQUINO SAID HE PLANNED TO TELL MARCOS THAT UNLESS HIS TRIAL HELD IN CIVIL COURT HE WOULD TIE UP MILITARY COURT FOR YEAR OR TWO CALLING EVERY POSSIBLE WITNESS AND DOING EVERYTHING HE COULD TO EMBARRASS PRESIDENT. ENRILE, WHO PROMISED TO CONSULT WITH MARCOS AND BE BACK TO AQUINO, SUGGESTED AQUINO PUT HIS REQUEST IN WRITING. WHILE AQUINO, WITH HELP OF SALONGA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 08835 071017Z

DRAFTING LETTER, ENRILE CALLED BACK SAYING PRESIDENT HAD AGREED TO SEE AQUINO THIS AFTERNOON. SALONGA CAUTIONED AQUINO THAT PROMISE MIGHT NOT BE KEPT, BUT HE SAID HE LEFT AQUINO IN STATE OF "EUPHORIA." SALONGA PROMISED INFORM EMOBFF AS SOON AS HE FOUND OUT WHETHER MEETING ACTUALLY DID TAKE PLACE. SALONGA WAS DEEPLY SKEPTICAL MARCOS WOULD KEEP PROMISE.

3. COMMENT: SYJUCO'S INSTRUCTION THAT AQUINO BE FORCED TO APPEAR AT TRIAL TOMORROW HAD POTENTIAL FOR SOME EMBARRASSMENT. SYJUCO ALSO ORDERED THAT TRIAL BE CLOSED TO PUBLIC WITH ONLY BONA FIDE MEDIA MEN ALLOWED COVER IT. ALTHOUGH AQUINO'S SISTER (MRS. CONCIO) TOLD PRESS HER BROTHER WOULD APPEAR, IT WAS ALWAYS POSSIBLE AQUINO MIGHT BALK AT LAST MINUTE PRESENTING REGIME WITH QUESTION OF WHETHER TO COMPEL HIS PRESENCE BY FORCE. AQUINO'S TWO PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH ENRILE ARE A FIRST. MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND AQUINO, SHOULD IT MATERIALIZE, WOULD BE THEIR FIRST PERSONAL CONFRONTATION SINCE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW. AQUINO HAS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO HAVE HIS CASE TRIED BY CIVIL COURT (DURING VISIT TO STAFFDEL SALZBERG -- SEE MANILA 5897), BUT WHETHER MARCOS WOULD PERMIT SUCH A TRIAL DOUBTFUL, ALTHOUGH HE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO ABOLISH MILITARY COMMISSIONS. IN ANY EVENT, THERE DOES SEEM TO BE SOME MOVEMENT IN AQUINO'S CASE. HOPEFULLY IT IS POSITIVE WE SHALL CONTINUE KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED.
STULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA08835
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770202-0327
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770683/aaaacuyn.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae9bbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2250524
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AQUINO CASE
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae9bbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009